

WHRHS NEWS 2016 Winter Vocal Concert

Some 275 WHRHS student singers and musicians show musical mastery and entertain audience on some 24 songs at annual Spring Vocal Concert Dec. 16



Some 275 student singers and accompanists performed before a packed Performing Arts Center audience of students, parents, family members and the general public at the 2016 Winter Vocal Concert at WHRHS. The principal conductor for the evening was WHRHS Choral Music Director Angela Dilorio Bird. The WHRHS Chorus has 123 singers. The Advanced Chorus has 134 singers. There were also six songs sung by smaller ensembles of singers drawn from the ranks of the Chorus and Advanced Chorus. And three songs sung as Senior Solo performances.



The very start of the annual Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Winter Vocal Concert, Friday, Dec. 16, was held across campus in the Gym 5/6, where the WHRHS Warrior Boys Basketball team hosted the Bridgewater-Raritan High School Panther Basketball team on Juan Carlos Cruz Night. It was a night to remember the late WHRHS Soccer Coach and Teacher, Juan Carlos Cruz, who died this Fall, and a fundraiser to help his family and a scholarship that has been established in his name. Video cameraman Chris Valenti kneeling foreground right, recorded the Select Vocal Ensemble from the WHRHS Advanced Chorus at center court in the gym singing the "Star Spangled Banner," followed by a tender rendition of "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." The students then hustled down the hall to the school's Performing Arts Center (PAC), where the audience in the PAC watched the recorded "Star Spangled Banner," and "The Lord Bless You and Keep You," previously recorded in the gym on the video screen above the stage. As happened among the audience in the gym, a great many in the audience in PAC were teary-eyed during the tender remembrance of Coach Cruz.

WARREN TWP. – Some 275 student singers and accompanists performed before a packed Performing Arts Center audience of students, parents, family members and the general public on Friday, Dec. 16, at the 2016 Winter Vocal Concert at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS).

The principal conductor for the evening, was WHRHS Choral Music Director Angela Dilorio Bird. The WHRHS Chorus has 123 singers. The Advanced Chorus has 134 singers. There were also six songs sung by smaller ensembles of singers, some all girls, some all boys, and some mixed, drawn from the ranks of the Chorus and Advanced Chorus.

Three students performed "Senior Solos:" Mariella Zijdel, singing "La Vie en Rose," by Edith Piaf; Katie Napell, singing "Goodnight My Angel," by Billy Joel; and Allison Horvath, singing "Wind Beneath My Wings," by Silbar and Henley.

In practically every other song, numerous students emerged seamlessly during the songs from the Chorus, Advanced Chorus or Ensemble to sing one or a number of solo lines of the song lyrics at a downstage microphone. They then would return to the bigger group to continue singing with the bigger group. Likewise various combinations of musicians besides the nearly standard piano accompaniment, to play musical embellishments on a variety of instruments, including horns, reeds, guitar, harmonica, and percussion, and from a variety of locations on stage and in the audience, including high in the balcony. Many of the piano accompaniments were performed by students. Some were performed by Dilorio Bird.

Even the very start of the concert was technically held across campus in the gym where the WHRHS Warrior Boys Basketball team hosted the Bridgewater-Raritan High School Panther Basketball team on Juan Carlos Cruz Night. It was a night to remember the late WHRHS Soccer Coach and Teacher, Juan Carlos Cruz, who died this Fall, and a fundraiser to help his family and a scholarship that has been established in his name.

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The students then hustled down the hall to the PAC, where the audience in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) watched the National Anthem and "The Lord Bless You and Keep You," from the gym on the video screen above the stage. As happened among the audience in the gym, a great many in the audience in PAC were teary-eyed during the tender remembrance of Coach Cruz.

The concert that followed was an inventive program that showcased the talent of all the students involved, not just as singers, but also the accompanists.

"Our program stretched the students' talent... to new levels that they then mastered," said Dilorio Bird. "We wanted the concert to be entertaining and educational for the students and the audience with songs, some of which they knew and some of which may have been new to them. It aimed to be enriching for everyone. We hope it was a perfect menu for a season when many seek to enrich others as they, themselves, are also enriched."

Alumni of the WHRHS Choral Music Program were invited to come on stage and sing "Auld Lang Syne," which is an annual tradition of the program.

The last two songs of the concert were performed by the Combined Chorus, which filled the stage with members of the Chorus and Advanced Chorus. They sang, "Man in the Mirror," recorded by Michael Jackson," and concluded the concert with, "Disney Movie Magic." This song featured portions of songs from nearly a dozen Disney movies. The singing was conducted by student Jordon Reynolds, and had Dilorio Bird accompanying on piano. During the medley, videos clips from the Disney movie songs being sung, played on the overhead screen.

“The Choral Program plans to travel to Disney World in Florida during February, where students will hear from Disney professionals, rehearse and sing in competition against high schools from all over the country,” Dilorio said. “The students will also have the opportunity to learn from all the creativity on display every day in the Disney theme parks.”

Members of the Advanced Chorus and Chorus

The Advanced Chorus Student Members are: Sopranos, Kyra Anthony, Eva Bagchi, Chloe Bahna, Vanessa Benitez, Angelina Carrano, Elizabeth Chapleski, Danae Churchill, Clara Citarella, Melanie Cunha, Stella DeMizio, Anchal Dhir, Alice Farinhas, Alexandra Fenlon, Callie Freidinger, Alyza Garcia, Madelena Goffredo, Olivia Graf, Mallory Helmes, Allison Horvath, Katrina Howard, Gowri Jagadeesh, Kathleen Kalb, Rhea Kalyanpur, Danielle Keller, Sarah Kelly, Gwendlyn Kinder, Tea Kingley, Emily Krouk, Lauren Krushinskie, Emma Leary, Kira Leinwand, Colby Magalhaes, Kayla Martins, Veronica Mu, Angela Munoz, Madelyn Murphy, Avery Noerr, Amanda Nunes, Katherine Paterson, Sophia Patti, Mackenzie Perez, Sophia Perez, Emma Reedman, Adele Rotondo, Elisabeth Russo, Swetha Sadhu, Angelia Seda, Kimberly Solis, Lynsey Stanicki, Amelia Stapperfenne, Alexandra Terry, Katie Unterwald, Claire Vickery, Nicole Vila, Isabella Vitlin-Stein, Abby Watkins, and Alison Wolf

Alto, Nicole Bell, Rhiannon Barone, Sara Barrientos, Brianna Caetano, Julia Celeste, Jessie Crowell, Rebecca Dickerson, Gabriella DiLone, Emma Duensing, Esmailin Flores, Emma Giordano, Emily Graf, Amy Holz, Aditi Joshi, Amanda Kumor, Carly MacManus, Peri Martins, Hannah Melillo, Rachel Miller, Katie Napell, Eliana Neuwirth, Elizabeth Nuzzi, Emily O’Connell, Megan Petersen, Noelle Puleo, Molly Rall, Lina Rivetti, Sarah Rosa, Elizabeth Samayoa, Jane Saponaro, Rebecca Sendon, Grace Shanahan, Heather Sherry, Vicky Salon, Jennifer Stavole, Kathryn Van Arsdale, Nya Venson, Caitlin Villarreal, Leanna Villarreal, Nhi Vu, Shelby Waddy, Lauren Wasserman, Srisaumya Yellamelli, Brianna Young and Mariella Zijdel;

Tenor, Mylan Dettling, Julianne Lin, Kevin Lynch, John Maher, Kory McNaughton, Caleb Parker, Saicholan Pillai, Rovit Rejeev, Emilia Ricciardi, Emanuel Sacatta, Connie Situ, Telaya Strickland, and Jashua Tankel; and

Bass, Benjamin Allgor, Elias Alvarado, Nicholas Arceo, Nikhil Bhat, William Broder, Joseph Denisco, Michael Dumapit, Suchir Govindarajan, Justin Horowitz, William Johnson, Sheldon Kohl, Andrew Morrison, Matthew Oboh, Jordan Reynolds, Enzo Ruta, Giovanni Savatta, Sam Sinnott, Anthony Speros and Alexander Wu.

The Chorus Student members are: Erin Bailey, Christina Baratta, Claire Beck, Natasha Bird, Sophia Blanchard, Ariya Blow, Nancy Cerqueira, Michelle Chavanne, Kaelin Churchill, Sophie Conwell, Emily Dec, Emily Delaney, Olivia DeRoner, Arden Dettling, Caitlyn Diem, Giovanna DiSanto, Amina Elmallah, Sophia Formisano, Jayla Garcia, Megan Gerges, Maria Irvin, Apura Joshi, Simren Kohli, Ivey Ledward, Keriann Lettieri, Gabrielle Listori, Janet Liu, Jacey Maree, Jordan Miller, Stephanie Moreno, Kenya Pagan, Angelica Palka, Jessica Petersen, Julia Piela, Gabriella Roca, Teresa Rotolo, Partia Rowley, Swetha Sadhu, Anna Schafhauser, Meier Shi, Ariadna Sosa, Hannah Stevens, Christine Tanko, Hayley Thompson, Savela Yanga and Nathalie Zuniga;

Alto, Aurora Baker, Jade Barthelus, Anastasia Benc, Sydney Brewster, Kimberly Briceno, Gina Calleo, Katerina Calvo, Nyna Chacko, Izzy DeFinis, Anna Duensing, Kathleen Eghelshi, Lucy Filoramo, Samantha

Gead, Amelia Gifford, Ali Haner, Mia Hagel, Taylor Harquail, Kylie Hayward, Francesca Infante-Meehan, Ashley Johnson, Portia Jones, Ann Kielblock, Melissa Kountouris, Mia Kurzman, Olivia Leong, Sam Levine, Cameron Lipton, Esha Mamtaney, Emily Matias, Stephanie Mauro, Ava Melillo, Jennifer Miller, Alexandria Minetti, Sydney Moholkar, Nina Morris, Skylar Paltjon, Ivelis Perez, Rebecca Perkins, Emma Petrich, Juliana Restrepo, Vicky Solimani, Alaina Spiteri, Kathleen Stavole, Summer Stuart, Jamie Tomassetti, Elyssa Van Houtte, Jen Walpow, Dana Wasserman, Samantha Wettman, Elizabeth Wood and Sarah Young.

Tenor, Aviel Andes, Colton Berry, David Kim, Joshua Monto, Tyler Pearson, Scott Romankow, Lucas Schultz, Massai Shuler and Parth Vaidya; and

Bass, Benjamin Allgor, Sebastian Aviles, Samuel Boufford, Benjamin Kasakowski, Matthew Mackrell, Lucas Mammone, Jack Melillo, Rohan Pai, Zachary Rieger, Anthony Rodriques, Justin Rodriguez, Tyler Schallipp, Anthony Speros, James Stevens, Nicholas Stevens, Pierre Tejada, and Mark Volante.

The Accompanists are: Bryan Boretz, Ryan Branco, Dana Carron, Phillip Ding, Rachelle Flores, Megan Gerges, Zoe Golkin, Stella Hung, William Johnson, Craig Mandelbaum, Chloe Mok, Andrew Morrison, Ryan O'Byrne, Annabell Pu, Jordon Reynolds, Emilie Ricciardi, Justine Wang, Lynn Zhou and Vivian Zhang.